Fish Use of Stream Drainage Basins in the City of Bellevue

April 2009

Background and Data Sources

Current knowledge of the species of fish in Bellevue's streams and their distribution is based on stream typing work conducted in the summer of 2001 (The Watershed Company 2001) that involved assessing culverts as to whether fish could pass upstream and electrofishing; an electrofishing survey conducted at five sites in the Kelsey Creek basin in 2007 (City of Bellevue, unpublished data) and fish moved prior to sediment removal from two sediment ponds along Coal Creek (The Watershed Company 2007a); salmon spawning surveys conducted annually during the fall between 2001 and 2008 (Taylor Associates 2002; The Watershed Company 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007b, 2009); and peamouth surveys and spawning observations conducted by Bellevue staff and volunteers between the late 1990s and 2008 (City of Bellevue, unpublished data). Lake Washington shore use by warm water fish was documented by Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife in June of 2005 (Personal Communication, Chad Jackson, July 18, 2007). Fish use of the lake shore along Lake Sammamish has not been documented by the City of Bellevue.

Ardmore Area

No fish have been found to use the two streams in this basin, although some habitat exists. A lack of water from early summer until fall appears to be the limiting factor for fish use in most areas. The upstream area of the Ardmore Drainage Basin has two headwater streams, which begin within the City of Bellevue and continue through the City of Redmond where they discharge into the north end of Lake Sammamish. The northernmost stream lies along the north City limit adjacent to Bellevue-Redmond Road. Although it is essentially a roadside ditch in most places, the channel does contain a significant amount of suitable habitat features and has a relatively gentle slope. The headwaters of the southern streams are located in Ardmore Park. A forested riparian cover provided extremely good habitat, which included large woody debris, gravel and cobble substrate, and pool-riffle sequences. The pools generally were not large, but fish should be able to use these segments based on habitat value.

See Bellevue's Basin Fact Sheet Main web page for additional fish use information for Bellevue streams.

References Cited

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